Amateur Radio Newsline™ Report 1310 – September 20, 2002

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1310 with a release date of Friday, September 20 2002 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Out of the tragedy of 911 comes a new way for hams to be prepared. Find out more on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1310 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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EMERGENCY COMMS: NEW DATABASE BEING CREATED

A new ham radio volunteer database is about to become a reality. Amateur Radio Newsline's Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, has the story of how an act of terror lead to its creation:

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A year ago, when al-Quida terrorists hit in New York City, Pennsylvania and Washington D-C, it was Joe Tomasone, AB2M, who put together an Internet based volunteer registration system. This strategy permitted ham radio volunteers to be quickly credentialed and dispatched to the various disaster sites where they were needed. Last May at the Amateur Radio Newsline sponsored Ham Radio Town Meeting in Dayton Joe explained that the database came about because he wanted to do somthing to help in the wake of the attacks:

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Tomasone: "Not knowing what else to do I sent an e-mail to Tom Caruba, KA2D, who is the Section Emergency Coordinator for the New Yourk City and Long Island. I said that I know there is nothing that is nothing I can do to help, but let me know if there is somthing I can do to help.

And I expected that maybe he would request for me to make some phone calls or do some health and welfare traffic outside the area because the phones were in scetchy status in the New Yoork City ares. A short time later a request came back that I wasn't sure how to answer. They asked: '...can yoiu make a databse that will track the hudreds of requests we are getting [from hams] to come down and volunteer and can we put that up on the Internet so that it can be accessed.'

I thought about it for a few minutes and I said yes, I think we can do that."

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Joe Tomasone did do it. The result was a steady flow of volunteers being dispatched when and where they were needed.

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Tomasone: "On the registration page as many of you were able to see, it asked for basic information such as your name, your call sign, your address, contact information, what ARRL Section you were from and what your availability was. Now once that was put into the database, it was able to be queeried by a

number of people who were given access to that portion of the siute. That enabled them to do searches based on a number of criteria."
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During his Dayton presentation, Joe mentioned his desire to grow what became known as the World Trade Center Volunteer Database into a general event activation management program for ARES, RACES and SKYWARN activities. Now Joe is about to get that project off the ground. But to do it he needs your help.

Joe tells Amateur Radio Newsline that making it happen will take people and new ideas. To that end, he has created an e-mail mailing list to solicit concepts and volunteers for this project. Anyone who is interested can either sign up directly by sending an e- mail to volreg-request@lists.ab2m.net or by visiting wtc.ab2m.net on the World Wide Web. Please note that their is no w-w-w in that U-R-L. Its simply wtc.ab2m.net.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, in New York.

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Dont worry if you missed that U-R-L. We are putting a link to it from our website at www.arnewsline.org. (ARNewsline™)

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RADIO LAW: CC&R BILL HR 4720 ATTRACTS ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

Good news on the legislative front. Five more cosponsors now have signed aboard HR 4720. This is a bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions when they want to put up antennas.

According to a story in the ARRL Letter, the list of cosponsors is now up to 23 members of the U-S House of Representatives who have agreed to sign on to the measure. This includes two radio amateurs: They are Oregon Republican Greg Walden, WB7OCE and Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, WD5DVR. Walden was one of the two original cosponsors of HR 4720 with Texas Republican Pete Sessions. Walden and Ross are believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in the U-S House of Representatives.

It was New York Democrat Steve Israel introduced HR 4720 back on May 14th. The measure would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities. (ARRL)

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RADIO RECORDS: 24 GHZ RECORD BROKEN

The ham radio distance record for a contact on the 24 Gigahertz band has been broken again. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, is here to tell us who did it and how:

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On the 7th of September Dave Robinson, G4FRE, operating as WW2R/5, and Al Ward, W5LUA, made a record-breaking contact on 24,192MHz. Dave was operating

portable in EM41HC near Natchez, Mississippi, and W5LUA was operating from his home in EM13QC, at Allen in Texas.

CW signals of 549 were exchanged. The distance, based on six-digit to six-digit grid squares, is 337.3 miles or 542.8 kilometres.

The sked was set up earlier in the week via e-mail with no liaison on any band, including cellular. Attempts to repeat the contact over the same path 12 hours after the initial QSO resulted in no signals being identifiable either way on 10GHz, suggesting the morning QSO was under enhanced tropo conditions.

Jeramy Boot, G4NJH
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No signals were heard on 2 meters or 70 centimeters at the time of the 24 Gigahertz contact was completed. Previous experiments on 10 gigahertz last July also resulted in no signals being identified. (GB2RS)

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Break 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Catalina Amateur Radio Association net serving our home -- Los Angeles California.

(5 sec pause here)

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ENFORCEMENT: 20 METER NET INTERFERENCE

Interference to nets on 20 meters in the South Pacific. Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, reports from Brisbane Australia:

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20 Meter interference. The Maritime nets on 14.315 MHz are having problems with interference. Chris VK2UW says the ACA have been notified and are monitoring, but a bit of help from Hams re locating the source of the Interference would be appreciated.

It is Man made and is regular both by making noises and CW type transmissions. The nets involved are the Pacific InterIsland Net on 14.315 MHz 0800 Z each night and Tony's Net on 14.315 MHz 7.00am EST each day.

>From Q-News Australia, I’m Graham Kemp. VK4BB, reporting for the amateur Radio Newsline.

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If you hear the interference and can get a bearing on it, please report your findings to your nations Intruder Watch coordinator. In the United States that’s the American Radio Relay League. (Q-News)

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ENFORCEMENT: REPEATER ORDERED OF THE AIR

Back stateside, the FCC has ordered a repeater operator to take his system off the air. It happened in California. The agency's Daryl Duckworth, NN0W, explains the action taken:

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Duckworth: "A repeater shutdown order was issued to Steven Decho, KE6FX, of Draper Utah regarding operation of his repeater or remote base on Mt. Disappointment in the Los Angeles area. Decho was told in a letter to shut down operation until he either obtained current coordination or submitted a detailed, specific and acceptable plan to the enforcement bureau demonstrating how he would prevent interference to the WA6UZS repeater operation."
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Late word from the FCC is that Decho has replied to the agency. He has shut down the Mt. Disappointment system. (FCC, RAIN)

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RADIO SURVEY RESULTS: 1 IN 10 NEVER HEARD OF IRLP

A recent survey conducted by the website Radio-Scanner.co.uk shows that 1 in 10 radio enthusiasts worldwide have never heard of the Internet Radio Linking Project better known as I-R-L-P. The survey did however show that only 20% of radio enthusiasts were against the idea, with a massive 71% backing it. 9% were apparently undecided.

The Radio-Scanner release did not say if the survey was limited to licensed radio amateurs or included others such as S-W-L's and monitoring radio enthusiasts. Also, no data was published regarding knowledge or acceptance of other ham radio Internet linking protocols such as I-Link, Echolink, Hamlink or E-Q-S-O. (Radio-Scanner)

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RADIO LAW: GROUP WARNS ON NEW BROADBAND REGS

A consumer action group says that some proposed U.S. government policies could harm competition in the broadband Internet market. This says the Consumer Federation of America will result in reducing choices and driving up monthly fees for users who want high-speed access.

The C-F-A contends that by easing regulations on incumbent cable television and local phone companies, the Federal Communications Commission will hasten the demise of independent Internet providers who reach users over existing phone and cable lines. They say that , consumers will suffer as cable and local phone giants that currently dominate the broadband market will no longer be driven to lower prices and create innovative products.

The FCC ruled in March that cable providers do not have to share their systems or provide open access for competing Internet services, and the agency is currently reassessing its line-sharing rules for local-phone giants like Verizon Communications and SBC Communications Inc. (CFA)

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HAM RADIO HELP: IHS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The International Health Service is looking for ham radio volunteers with High Frequency portable operating experience to go to Honduras from February 14 to March 2, 2003. The International Health Service is a non-profit organization based in Minnesota that provides free health care to the people of Honduras. Applications are being taken through the beginning of October. If you are interested please contact John Kirckof, KB0UUP by e-mail to jmkkek@runestone.net or phone him at 320-634-4386. The I-H-S web site can be found at www.ihsofmn.org (HIS)

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NEW RELEASES: PASSPORT TO WORLD BAND RADIO

Media Network reports that the 2003 edition of Passport to World Band Radio is now available for ordering from Universal Radio. Priced at $15.90, Passport to World Band Radio is the bible of S-W-L's and other radio monitoring enthusiasts around the globe. More information is on the web at www.universal-radio.com. (Media Network)

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SPECIAL EVENTS: THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY 63RD ANNIVERSARY ON THE AIR

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary' 63rd Anniversary special event Radio Day is slated for Saturday October 5th. The event will take place at all Coast Guard Auxiliary Districts across the United States. Operations will take place on 40 through 10 meters. Listen for call signs like K1G, N2A, W8E and the like and Q-S-L as directed on the air. (Press release)

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HAM RADIO IN CYBERSPACE: ARRL CENTRAL DIVISION NOW ON THE WWW

The American Radio Relay League's Central Division now has its own home in cyberspace. Its the creation of Clay Melhorn, N9IO. The good news is that there is no advertising of no pop-ups on this site. Oh yes, you will find it on the web at www.central.arrl.org. (Listener contributed)

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CONVENTIONS AND HAMFESTS: LIMARC RESCHEDULED

The LIMARC Hamfest that was to be held Sunday September 15th has been rescheduled to Sunday November 10th because Mother Nature would no cooperate. According to Eddie Muro, K2EPM, inclement weather caused the last minute cancellation. Muro adds that the venue will remain the same -- Briarcliffe College in the town of Bethpage New York. More information is on the web at www.limarc.org. (LIMARC)

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CONVENTIONS AND HAMFESTS: CSVHFS IN MILWAUKEE

208 people attended the recent Central States VHF Society Conference held in Milwaukee Wisconsin. Conference Proceedings are available for $20.00 shipped domestic United States from the Central States VHF Society in care of Bruce Richardson W9FZ, 2330 Lexington Ave S. #312, Mendota Heights, Minnesota 55120 . And less we forget, next year's conference is in Tulsa Oklahoma on the last weekend of July. (VHF Reflector)

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HAM RADIO NEWS SERVICES: GB2RS SUBSCRIBABLE LIST NOW ON YAHOOGROUPS

Also. the Radio Society of Great Britain's weekly news bulletin is now available over a Yahoogroups mailing list. The news is posted over the weekend, after it has been released for non RSGB members. You can subscribe by sending an empty e-mail to GB2RSnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Yahoogroups is also the home of the Amateur Radio Newsline e-mail list you subscribe to it by sending a similar empty e-mail to arnewsline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. (Listener contributed)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org.

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW CATV CHIPS REVOLUTIONIZE SETY TOP BOXES

A new chipset developed in Canada may revolutionize set top T-V converter boxes. The spinoff of this technology could also impact future ham radio gear. Norm Seeley, KI7UP has more:

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Zarlink Semiconductor of Ottawa Canada has announced availability of a new high performance chipset for tuning analog and digital RF cable TV signals. Zarlink's two-device chipset claims to deliver reception of all analog and digital cable channels, while allowing designers of multi-service cable set-top boxes to shrink tuner designs by 50% and reduce tuner costs by up to 20%.

The Zarlink chipset is comprised of a broadband tuner I-C and a new chip that handles frequency down-conversions and intermediate frequency amplification. Zarlink says that the new I-C's implement active RF and IF amplification circuitry directly in the silicon wafer structure. In fact, the circuitry inside the count-down integrated circuit eliminates up to 40 external components from high performance, double-conversion tuner designs.

Norm Seeley, KI7UP.
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The same Zarlink based technology could conceivably be used to shrink the size of other electronic gear that will require advanced R-F signal processing. This could include the next generation of digital communications ham radio

gear. Ham gear that could be no bigger than a set-top CATV converter box.
(Based on Zarlink release)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: INTEL TO INTRODUCE 3 GHZ PROCESSOR

Computer industry sources say that Intel may be moving up the introduction of its new 3 gigahertz Pentium 4 processor. Intel had originally planned to introduce the 3.0 gigahertz Pentium 4 processor by the end of the year. The earlier date will give manufacturers an edge in getting machines ready for the Christmas buying season. Intel also is reportedly accelerating the introduction of its 2.80 gigahertz Pentium 4 as well. (Via Internet)

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RADIO IN SPACE: IO - A JOVIAN TRANSMITTER

>From the science page comes word of a kind of natural transmitter in orbit around the planet Jupiter that has no magnetic field. Roy Neal, K6DUE, has more:

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There are many mysteries in deep space. Men and their machines are hard at work trying to resolve them. At the heart of unmanned space flight, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in Southern California is home to the huge antennnas that control the space ships that go out in the attempt to unlock the secrets. It also is home to amateur radio station W6VIO and many of the hams who run the station take part in the deep space endeavours.

The latest report says they have found that IO, a volcanic moon circling the planet Jupiter, transmits charged particles…easily detectable as power and noise. But the moon apparently has no magnetic field. These data were gathered by NASA’s Galileo spacecraft as it orbited Jupiter for the last 6 years.

The discovery took on importance last Fall. The researchers were trying to determine whether the moon created its own magnetic field inside the massive one generated by Jupiter, the largest of all our solar planets. When Galileo crossed the path of a magnetic field connection between IO and Jupiter, suddenly the density of the charged particles through which it was passing increased…but no magnetic field was

detected. Leaving the researchers, in their earthly control room, yet anther puzzle of the universe to solve.

For the amateur radio newsline, Roy Neal, K6DUE
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More on this fascinating finding is available in cyberspace at www.jpl.nasa.gov/videos/Io (NASA-JPL)

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INTERNATIONAL - CANADA: VO1MX APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

On the international wire word that Dan Goodwin, VO1MX, of Gander Newfoundland has been appointed as an Assistant Director for the Radio Amateurs of Canada Atlantic Region in Central Newfoundland. Goodwin fills a vacancy that existed in the central region of Newfoundland serving the major centers of Gander and Grand Falls-Windsor. (RAC)

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INTERNATIONAL - ARGENTINA: HAMS TO GET 136 KHZ ALLOCATION

Hams in Argentina are getting access to the 136 kHz band. Roberto Beviglia, LU4BR, who is the President of the Argentinean national amateur radio society says that his group made the rules change request to the Argentine radio regulatory department. The government agreed. As a result, 135.7 to 135.8 kHz has been initially allocated to that nations amateur service on a secondary basis. (GB2RS)

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DX

In DX, word that Laurence Howell, GM4DMA, is active as portable 9M6 on the High Frequency bands and 6 meters from Sabah now until the 30th of September. He is there to teach communications theory and to set up a new country headquarters communications base for the youth development charity Raleigh International. (GB2RS)

And the ARRL DXCC desk has announced a new 30 meter DXCC Single Band award. Applications for this award will be accepted beginning on October 1st. The new 30 meter DXCC certificates will be dated, but not numbered. (ARRL)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: FLYING THE FLAG

And finally this week a look back to the way ham radio commemorated 9-11. This week its the story of two Florida hams who took to the air to fly the flag. In their case it was not by radio but rather in a Cessna 172 aircraft carrying several U-S flags as a part of an event called Flight Across America. The pilot at the controls was veteran aviator Steven Crow, K4CPX:

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K4CPX: “What they did was to assign somebody from every state to carry their state flag into New York City to be there originally on 911. But they locked down New York City again for 911 so they had to do it a few days early.

Those airplanes that could not come to New York or wouldn’t because there were only fifty airplanes carrying state flags -- they wanted to have an airplane at each airport fly aloft for this commemoration which we did.

Then I came up with the idea of carrying flags for individuals. For people who wanted their flag commemorated with a flight on Flight Across America. So we did and we carried five flags aloft and we put a seal on them and signed them and gave them back to the people after we got back on the ground.”
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Accompanying K4CPX was Wendall Peterson K0REQ as co-pilot and Julius Ehland as the bearer of the flags. And on the morning of 9/11 the three made their way to Punta Gorda's Charlotte County Airport only to find it not to be a great day to venture into the sky:

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K4CPX: "We went out to the airport anyway and stood around watching the rain sweep through. It is a pretty large airport with 6000' runways and I think we were the only pilots and the only flight that was even there that day."
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Finally a slight break in the weather:

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K4CPX: "We hung around and hung around another couple of hours -- all the time watching -- and looking at the RADAR -- and check it and see this stuff coming through. And we found a bit of a hole and decided -- lets jump in and take a quick look from the end of the runway and maybe aloft and maybe we can get the flight in."
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And that's exactly what they did:

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K4CPX: "We took off; climbed up to 1000 feet, turned sharply ahead of some heavy weather coming in and came right around the airport and landed on another runway and we were on the ground. We were probably in the air a total of maybe 12 or 13 minutes."
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The important thing is that the flags were flown and returned to their owners. And while Steve and Wendall did have some 2 meter ham gear on board the Cessna they never bothered to turn it on. This was 9/11 and commemorating the day was what the flight by these two radio amateurs and their friend had really been all about. (ARNewsline™)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline @arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that our survey how ham radio is being used by home schoolers is still taking place. If you are a home schooling parent or a student being home schooled, please send your thoughts on the subject by e-mail to newsline@arnewsline.org. So far the responses we have received are very interesting to read.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Ken Locke,

N8PJN, saying 73 and we thank you for listening." Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2002. All rights reserved.